



USNS MERCY NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 1

The Official Newsletter of USNS MERCY (T-AH 19)

Winter 2001

MERCY Prepares for KERNEL BLITZ '01

Story by LCDR Gary Penton

Photo by HM2 Reynaldo Datu

During the week of February 12th, parking lots were a lot less crowded at San Diego's Naval Medical Center and its branch clinics at Naval Air Station, North Island, and the 32nd Street Naval Station. Nearly 600 Sailors and officers assigned to those facilities were at their "other job." They are also assigned as "Full Operational Status (FOS)" crew onboard the Navy's Hospital Ship, USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).

Instead of reporting to Naval Medical Center or one of the branch clinics, they boarded buses bound for Pier 5 at Naval Base San Diego to begin a weeklong exercise aboard USNS MERCY (T-AH 19).

MERCY drills various members of its full crew complement one week each quarter and goes to sea periodically to ensure that the ship and its personnel are ready to respond as directed by the president. Many of the Sailors who participated in this exercise, MERCEX 01-1, had never set foot on board the hospital ship before that Monday morning.



Fire Party evacuating a simulated casualty during a fire drill.

The new crew was put through its paces, led by the ship's Reduced Operating Status (ROS) cadre, a "skeleton" crew of approximately 60 that mans the ship on a daily basis. They had a week to teach the new crewmembers the shipboard skills required to meet the ship's operational commitment to be ready

to deploy with five days notice.

Upon receiving an activation order, Mercy needs to be ready to depart the pier within five days," said CAPT Kathleen O'Farrell, commanding officer of the MERCY medical treatment facility. "We only train onboard Mercy for 5 days each

*See **KERNEL BLITZ**, page 3*



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From the Skipper

CAPT Kathleen O'Farrell, CO, USNS MERCY



MERCEX 01-1, 12-16 February 2001, provided an excellent opportunity to upgrade the overall readiness of the MERCY platform. Since our last exercise in September 2000, MERCY experienced a 30% turnover among crew members. While Shipboard Orientation provides a basic understanding of the ship's mission and capabilities,

the most effective orientation occurs when crew members stay on board for several days and participate in safety drills and patient care evolutions, working along side experienced crew members.

During MERCEX 01-1, more than 50 active duty and reserve personnel volunteered to serve as casualty actors for MERCY's casualty reception drills. The Moulage Team from the 1st Medical Battalion at Camp Pendleton came on board to teach moulage application skills to several MERCY crew members. A wide variety of simulated battle injury cases were brought on to the ship via the helo deck where they were triaged, and then channeled through CASREC to the Operating Rooms, the PACU, and the ICU, and on to the wards. Four cases underwent decontamination by the CBR Team under the close observation of an expert from EPMU-5. The Fire Fighting/Damage Control Team and the Flight Deck Crew conducted essential drills and the O2/N2 plant was activated.

The exercise flowed smoothly in spite of extensive disruptions due to several important renovation projects. The replacement of an x-ray machine with a new tomography/fluoroscopy unit was nearing completion during the exercise. The Blood Bank and STAT Lab are in the final stages of complete renovation, including replacement of all of the freezers and most of the reefers. This work will be completed about 16 March. The long awaited Isolation Unit in ICU 4 is also nearing completion and will be ready for use before KERNEL BLITZ at the end of March. All of these projects will upgrade MERCY's capabilities and will make a safer and more efficient environment in which to provide patient care. MERCY's crew did an excellent job of staying out of the contractors' way while, at the same time, conducting a standard trauma care training evolution. Many thanks to everyone for your coopera-

tion in working around the construction.

MERCEX 01-2 is just around the corner. The exercise starts on Monday, 26 March 2001, when the Critical Core comes on board and begins activation of the ship. All of the supplies and food stores will be loaded during that week, and the hospital and hotel services will be activated. The rest of the 250-bed crew will board on Saturday morning, 31 March 2001, by 0700. MERCY will depart the pier before noon that day and go to sea off the coast of Camp Pendleton for a week in support of the Marines' large biennial amphibious exercise, KERNEL BLITZ 01. Simulated casualties will be brought to MERCY by helo on April 3rd and 4th. Many distinguished visitors and VIPs will visit the ship underway April 1-4. MERCY will also be the receiving ship for any real casualties from other ships at sea during the exercise. We expect to return to port in San Diego on Friday, April 06, and to announce liberty by early afternoon that day.

The call-out for KERNEL BLITZ 01 is essentially identical to the call-out for our last exercise in February 2001. Any substitutions or exemptions are at the discretion of the hospital chain of command. Please check this newsletter for reminders on seabag items. Also, in this newsletter, please note the change of date for the next MERCY exercise, MERCEX 01-3. Originally scheduled for August 2001, **MERCEX 01-3 has been moved to 16-20 July 2001.** Only the Critical Core will be called out for the entire five days of that exercise. The Flight Deck Crew and CBR Team will be called out for the last three days (18-20 July 2001). The focus of MERCEX 01-3 will be to assess the training status of the crew and to refine the training plan that leads up to KERNEL BLITZ 03. Also, MERCEX 01-3 will provide refresher training for the Flight Deck Crew and CBR Team in order to maintain the cohesiveness and expertise of these specialized teams.

At present, there are no humanitarian missions on the horizon for MERCY. No further word has been received about such missions for the ship, but the planning over the past two years has resulted in MERCY's readiness to activate for such a mission if ordered.

I'm looking forward to going to sea with the MERCY crew for KERNEL BLITZ 01 at the end of the month. It will be rewarding to demonstrate the ship's readiness to support combat missions, and I am confident that we are ready to meet

CMC Corner

Training, training and more training. That was MERCEX 00-4 and MERCEX 01-1. As the Command Master Chief, I am so glad that we have come so far and that we have accomplished each of our training requirements.

I was very happy to see the ROS, FOS and CIVMAR crews working together as one solid team, side-by-side, during every training and drill evolution. The entire crew was extremely motivated and team oriented. For the new crewmembers: In spite of being onboard for less than a week, the efforts you all put forth were excellent.

The support I received from the entire Chain of Command was outstanding. I strongly believe that proper communication was the key. Everyone was willing to discuss and resolve issues at the lowest possible level, making it easy for me to perform my duties.

As the Senior Enlisted Leader onboard, I would like to thank the CPO community for taking care of the troops. With your involvement and commitment to lead by example, crew morale was extremely high. Every crewmember showed enthusiasm while demonstrating their individual skills and proficiency during each training evolution. Once again, you have proven that with proper communication and feedback you can make things

happen for the better. We are definitely ready for our KERNEL BLITZ 01, which we are certain to pass with flying colors.

The Ping Pong tournaments and the nightly BINGO games were a welcome relief after long days of training during the Fast Cruise. On behalf of the crew I offer a big "Thank You" and "Bravo Zulu" for LCDR Williams and the rest of the MWR staff.

We have a big task ahead of us. But if we stay focused and perform as well as we did during MERCEX 01-1, we will do just fine.

I look forward to seeing you all.

HMCM(SW/AW/FMF) Basa



KERNEL BLITZ

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quarter and we have to be able to take care of ourselves. We have to be able to fight fires and do damage control. We need to be very familiar with this ship so that, if we had to activate, we are really ready to function comfortably and safely onboard this ship."

The crew participated in a number of drills throughout the week, including man overboard, fire and abandon ship. There was also a Skills-A-Thon to help acquaint nurses, corpsmen and physicians with equipment they may not use every day.

"I'm a stretcher bearer. We've been practicing casualty drills, bringing patients in and off of helicopters, seeing how quickly we can get them to their designated spots so that the doctors can take a look at them and patch them up," said Dentalman Desmond Patterson, a native of Memphis, Tennessee.

In all, nearly 600 Sailors trained aboard the ship throughout the week. When manned as a 1000-bed trauma hospital, the ship is manned with over 1100 personnel.

"These exercises keep us refreshed and on our toes in case we have to activate. We do a lot of man overboard and abandon ship drills for people who don't go underway a whole lot. This is a really big ship, and we're not here that often, so it's very important to know your way around," said SH2(SW) Class Zachary Selover of Wills Point, Texas.

The week's activity peaked Thursday, February 15, during an intensive casualty exercise, complete with mock casualties.

"On this ship we do lots of training, and not just patient care training. We participate in damage control evolutions and we also work on fire-fighting and even anti-terrorist training," said HM2(SW) Joseph Swanson, from Boston Massachusetts.

*See **KERNEL BLITZ**, page 5*

Ten Years Ago

(Navy Medicine in DESERT SHIELD/STORM)

By LCDR Gary Penton with information provided by Naval Historical Center and DefenseLink

Shortly after Iraqi troops rolled into Kuwait, Navy medical personnel deployed to Saudi Arabia. From the corpsmen accompanying the Marines in the field to the hospital stateside, Navy medicine proved itself. For example, three days after forces were committed to DESERT SHIELD, deployment orders went out to the hospital ships USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) and USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20). Both ships were activated, manned, and supplied from a standing start. They were on station and ready in the Persian Gulf by 23 September.

MERCY and COMFORT, both 1000-bed floating hospitals, went from reduced operational status to fully operational status within five days of the initial DESERT SHIELD deployment order. The two ships were quickly staffed with nearly 2,500 Navy doctors, nurses and corpsmen from Navy medical facilities on both coasts.

More than 6,100 active-duty Navy men and women were deployed to provide medical care to coalition forces in DESERT SHIELD/STORM. Additionally, 10,452 naval medical reservists were recalled to active duty. Many filled large staffing gaps at military medical facilities where manpower was cut to the bone to support DESERT SHIELD. Other reservists served on the hospital ships and fleet hospitals in theater.

In addition to personnel of the Navy medical corps, medical service corps, and nurse corps, more than 5,800 Navy hospital corpsmen served with Marines during DESERT SHIELD/STORM. Eleven corpsmen were attached to each company of Marines. Corpsmen are assigned to a specific Marine unit for the length of their Fleet Marine Force tour of duty.

After being treated by corpsman in the field, sick and injured personnel could be quickly moved up the medical treatment ladder as required. Battalion aid stations provide patients with a physician's skills and clinical judgement in a safer environment with sufficient time to accomplish a more complete examination. The next step was a medical battalion surgical-support company, or a casualty receiving and treatment ship, where patients were treated by teams of physicians and nurses who were supported by medical technicians with



Mercy on station and ready in the Persian Gulf.

more complete medical facilities including a basic laboratory, holding wards, a pharmacy and greater surgical capacity. Casualties requiring more extensive treatment were transported to either a combat-zone fleet hospital or a hospital ship. The scope of treatment available at these facilities mirrored fully staffed hospitals in the United States.

Fleet Hospital (FH) 5 was the first such facility deployed to Saudi Arabia. Built in just 16 days, with the help of Navy Construction Battalion Units 411 and 415, FH5 saw its first patient five days after construction began. The entire facility had arrived in Saudi Arabia in more than 400 containers aboard the afloat pre-positioning ship MV Noble Star on 15 August. In less than two weeks, the Seabees, and Navy medical and support personnel from Naval Hospital Portsmouth, Virginia, had transformed the shipping containers into a 500-bed, forward-deployed medical facility, complete with operating rooms, intensive care units and radiological facilities. FH5, along with FH6 and FH15, which were set up in late January, cared for more than 32,000 patients during DESERT SHIELD/STORM. Members of all coalition forces, expatriates, enemy prisoners of war (EPW) and Kuwaiti refugees received care from the fleet hospitals.

While the fleet hospitals worked ashore, Navy hospital ships operated in the waters of the Persian Gulf, Red Sea and Gulf of Oman. Among the first ships deployed in support of DESERT SHIELD, USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) and USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20) are the only hospital ships of their size in the world. These 1,000-bed floating hospitals stood at the ready

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Ships Named for Corpsmen

U. S. Navy Ships Named in honor of Hospital Corpsmen

USS LITCHFIELD (DD-336)

Commissioned 12 May 1920

*Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class John R. Litchfield
KIA France 15 September 1918*

USS WALTER C. WANN (DE-412)

Commissioned 2 May 1944

*Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class Walter C. Wann
KIA Guadalcanal 7 August 1942*

USS DANIEL A. JOY (DE-585)

Commissioned 28 April 1944

*Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class Daniel A. Joy
KIA Guadalcanal 5 October 1942*

USS FRAMENT (DE-677/APD-77)

Commissioned 15 August 1943

*Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Paul Stanley Frament
KIA Guadalcanal 19 November 1942*

USS THADDEUS PARKER (DE-369)

Commissioned 25 October 1944

*Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class Thaddeus Parker
KIA New Georgia 20 July 1943*

USS JACK WILLIAMS (FFG-24)

Commissioned 19 September 1981

*Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class Jack Williams
KIA Iwo Jima 3 March 1945*

USS HALYBURTON (FFG-40)

Commissioned 7 January 1984

*Pharmacist's Mate William D. Halyburton, Jr.
KIA Okinawa 10 May 1945*

USS LESTER (DE-1022)

Commissioned 14 June 1957

*Hospital Apprentice 2nd Class Fred F. Lester
KIA Okinawa 8 June 1945*

USS DE WERT (FFG-45)

Commissioned 19 November 1983

*Hospitalman Richard De Wert
KIA Wonju, Korea 5 April 1951*

USS BENFOLD (DDG-65)

Commissioned 30 March 1996

*Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Edward C. Benfold
KIA Korea 5 Sep 1952*

USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (FF-1067)

Commissioned 25 July 1970

*Hospitalman Francis C. Hammond
KIA Korea 26 March 1953*

USS VALDEZ (FF-1096)

Commissioned 27 July 1974

*Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Phil I. Valdez
KIA South Vietnam 29 January 1967*

USS CARON (DD-970)

Commissioned 1 October 1977

*Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Wayne M. Caron
KIA Quang Nam, South Vietnam 28 July 1968*

USS DAVID R. RAY (DD-971)

Commissioned 19 November 1977

*Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class David R. Ray
KIA South Vietnam 19 March 1969*

KERNEL BLITZ

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The crew was required to stay on board for the final three days of the exercise. This allowed the

ship to simulate being "at sea" to allow the crew to experience teamwork through various exercises and drills and gain familiarity with the shipboard environment.

Small World Indeed!

Story by LCDR Gary Penton

Photo by HM2 Reynaldo Datu

For most Sailors, regardless of how many years spent serving in the U.S. Navy, the experiences are usually rewarding. For some however, the experience is nothing less than amazing.

Two USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) Sailors sharing the Navy experience recently bumped into each other at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego.

They hadn't seen each other since they were children in the same table-tennis club in the small town of Takoradi, Ghana, in western Africa.

In November of 2000, Navy Hospitalman Gideon K. Kwarteng was in the barracks lobby at his new duty station in San Diego when another Sailor struck up a conversation with him. That Sailor was Petty Officer 3rd Class Kofi Afful.

Afful recognized that his new acquaintance had an accent and asked him where he was from.

"I'm from Ghana," said the 26-year old Kwarteng.

"I'm from Ghana too. Hey listen, I'm just on my way to the activity center to play table-tennis. Would you like to come?"

"Sure, I haven't played for a while but I was quite good as a boy in Takoradi." Kwarteng said.

Afful was nearly speechless. "I grew up in Takoradi! If you played table tennis in Takoradi you must have heard of me!" he exclaimed.

"You are Afful!" Kwarteng suddenly recognized his new friend. Afful was a teen champion on the table-tennis team and Kwarteng remembered his performance at a

seventeen, Kwarteng moved to the capital city of Accra and opened a successful fashion boutique.

After several years, a friend told Kwarteng about an annual lottery that allowed the winner to immigrate to the United States. Though he didn't have much faith (his friend had applied religiously for twelve years with no luck,)

Kwarteng sent in his application in 1996 and promptly put it out of his mind. Amazingly, he won the lottery on his first attempt, and was soon on his way to Long Beach, California to live with his sister and her family who had immigrated some years earlier under another program.

He

found work at the Los Angeles International Airport and quickly promoted to security checkpoint supervisor. Though he had a fine job, he knew that he would need to go back to school to make the most of his new situation so he attended the Long Beach School for Adults in the evening and earned his high school diploma.

It was at the Long Beach School that one of his teachers "planted a seed" in his mind. The teacher had often complemented Kwarteng on his work in the sci-

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HN(SW) Gideon Kwarteng (left) with HM3 Kofi Afful.

1992 tournament.

The circumstances that brought both men to the United States and the Navy are as different as they are amazing.

Kwarteng was one of seven brothers and sisters in the small town of Kumasi, Ghana. When he was fourteen years old, he had to leave school to help support his family. He found work in the coastal city of Takoradi and spent much of his free time playing table tennis. He played on the same team with Afful for a short time in 1987.

In 1990, at the tender age of

Small World

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ences and suggested he consider a career in medicine. Kwarteng stayed at the top of his class in Chemistry and Life Sciences. This success and some investigation into educational opportunities brought him to a U.S. Navy recruiting office to see about joining the Hospital Corps.

There were no immediate openings in his chosen field but Kwarteng signed up anyway with the hope of converting to the Hospital Corpsman rating quickly.

"My first assignment was onboard USS Porter, homeported in Norfolk. I was assigned to the Deck Division where I stood duty as helmsman and lee-helmsman, driving the ship. In my spare time I worked at the branch clinic on base and I worked with the Independent Duty Corpsman when we were underway. It was hard but I didn't mind – I needed to learn the Hospitalman rate."

Kwarteng is one of a very few Seaman who have earned and is authorized to wear the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin. He was also awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and was selected as the ship's Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

He finally realized his dream and graduated from the Naval Hospital Corps School in October of 2000 and is now assigned to the Branch Medical Clinic, Naval Air Station North Island.

According to Kwarteng, his family was thrilled with the idea of him joining the United States Navy.

"My family and friends in Ghana are very proud. My father and friends never dreamt that I would ever be able to return to school. As a child, I was a good student and it was hard for me to

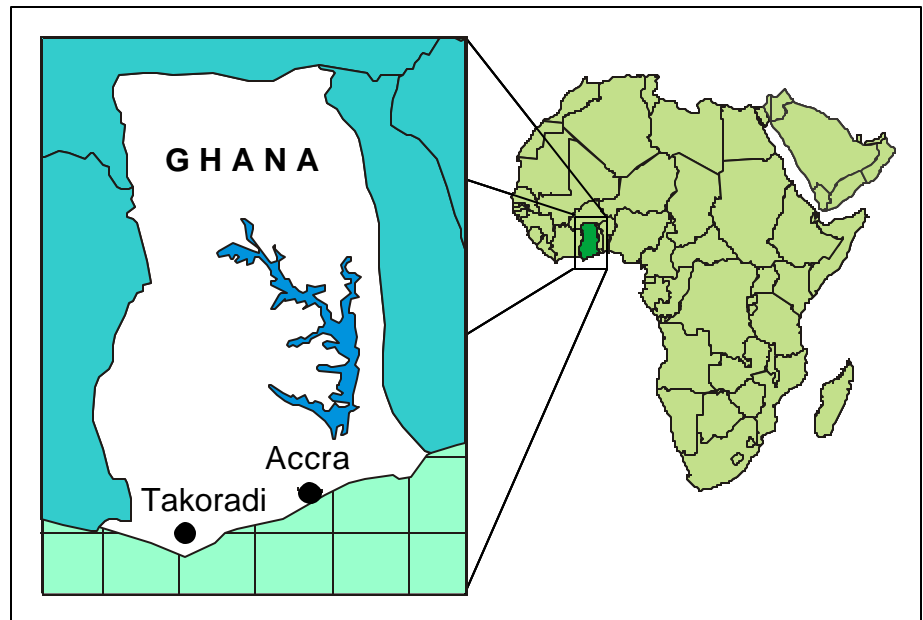
leave school to work. In my dreams, I was always in school – a student. Because of those dreams, I knew someday it would happen. People [at home] will be amazed that my life has changed so much."

Kwarteng is married with one daughter. His family is living in Ghana while he waits for his citizenship interview and approval to bring his bride and child to the United States.

worried. If I don't call, each time the Navy is involved in any danger, I get in trouble with my family," Afful said.

After Corpsman school and Fleet Marine Force training, Afful was first assigned to the 3rd Medical Battalion, Okinawa, Japan, where he served for three years.

"I loved being on the green side. I really enjoyed the discipline," said the 26-year old Afful.



Detail map shows town of Takoradi, Ghana, in western Africa.

Petty Officer Afful came to the United States with his brother and his father, an economics professor at Kalamazoo University.

He was working as a tour guide at the Empire State Building in New York City when he applied for admission to City of New York Nursing school. He was selected for admission at the same time that the Navy made an offer to send him to Hospital Corpsman school.

He joined the Navy in December 1995 and, after basic training, he attended the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois.

"Every time my family sees a Navy ship in the news they are

After the Navy's six-month Operating Room School, Afful was assigned to his present duty station, Naval Medical Center San Diego.

Today, the friends are working hard towards their futures. Both are enrolled in college and are preparing to apply for Navy commissioning programs. Kwarteng hopes to become a doctor, while Afful hopes to become a Navy Nurse.

USNS Mercy is currently operating off the coast of Southern California. The ship and crew are participating the fleet exercise, KERNEL BLITZ 2001.

By the way, Afful and Kwarteng finished 1st and 2nd in the USNS Mercy table-tennis tournament.

Ten Years Ago

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throughout DESERT SHIELD/STORM.

Navy medicine was ready stateside too. All Navy medical treatment facilities geared up to receive casualties from DESERT STORM if the need arose. In cooperation with the other armed services, the Navy designated certain hospitals to be casualty-receiving centers (CRCs). The CRCs were set up to receive patients from all services as they were evacuated stateside. Patients were then quickly transferred to facilities near their duty stations or hometowns, if available, to ensure appropriate medical care.

Navy medical ships and fleet hospitals provided well over two-thirds of in-theater medical capability during the first four months of the operation. In accordance with plans, the hospital ships MERCY and COMFORT were activated and deployed on five days notice. Together with the Fleet Hospitals, they provided the most comprehensive medical care facilities in theater and the capability to deal with a major influx of combat casualties.

TIMELINE

- 2 Aug, 1990 - Iraq invades Kuwait.
- 10 Aug - Hospital ships USNS MERCY and USNS COMFORT activated and prepare to deploy.
- 15 Aug - Hospital Ship USNS MERCY deploys for Middle East.
- 14 Sept - Hospital ship USNS MERCY arrives Gulf of Oman.
- 23 Sept - USNS MERCY (T-AH-19) and USNS COMFORT (T-AH-20) steam together for the first time in the Arabian Gulf, making Naval medical history.
- 14 Dec - Navy implements DOD-authorized limited stop loss action to retain personnel with critical skills that are in short supply due to extended medical requirements of Operation Desert Shield. The Navy's second use of this authority affects all Navy doctors, nurses, hospital corpsmen and medical service corps personnel whose dates of retirement or separation fall on or after 2 January 1991. SECNAV activates 769 additional Naval Reservists from 44 units.
- 1 Jan - USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) records 1,000th helicopter landing.
- 16 Jan - At 1900 (EST), White House announced commencement of OPERATION DESERT STORM, offensive action against Iraq under provisions of U.N. Security Council/U.S. Congressional resolutions.
- 2 March - U.N. Security Council approves Resolution outlining conditions Iraq must meet prior to a formal cease-fire.
- 4 March - Iraq releases ten Prisoners of War. POWs were turned over to U.S. officials by the International Committee of the Red Cross near the Jordanian border station of Ruwayshid, and then transferred to the hospital ship USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) for medical treatment.
- 11 March - 35 released U.S. Prisoners of War transit from Baghdad to Riyadh and are then transferred to USNS MERCY for medical treatment. March - USNS MERCY (T-AH 19) ordered to stand down. At end of a 210-day deployment, the hospital ship with crew of 1,200, including 265 Naval Reservists, has treated 6,050+ outpatients from sea and land-based units, admitted 650+ patients, performed 290+ surgeries, created 900 pairs of glasses, filled 16,000 prescriptions, took 5,500+ x-rays, and conducted 21,000 laboratory procedures. Dental staff treated 2,000 + patients; physical therapy department treated 2,000 patients. 1,300+ helicopters landed on the ship.
- USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20) ordered to stand down. At end of a seven-month deployment, the ship with a crew of 1,200 admitted 700+ patients and treated 8,000+ patients.
- Fleet Hospitals Five and Six ordered to stand down. At end of deployment, Fleet Hospital Five has treated more than 32,000 patients, including all coalition forces, ex-patriots, enemy prisoners of war and refugees, admitted 4,250 patients, performed 600 surgeries, treated 3,100+ dental patients, and filled 22,000 prescriptions.
- 21 March – USNS MERCY departs Arabian Gulf.

The Origin of Taps

This is one of two widely accepted theories on the origin of Taps.

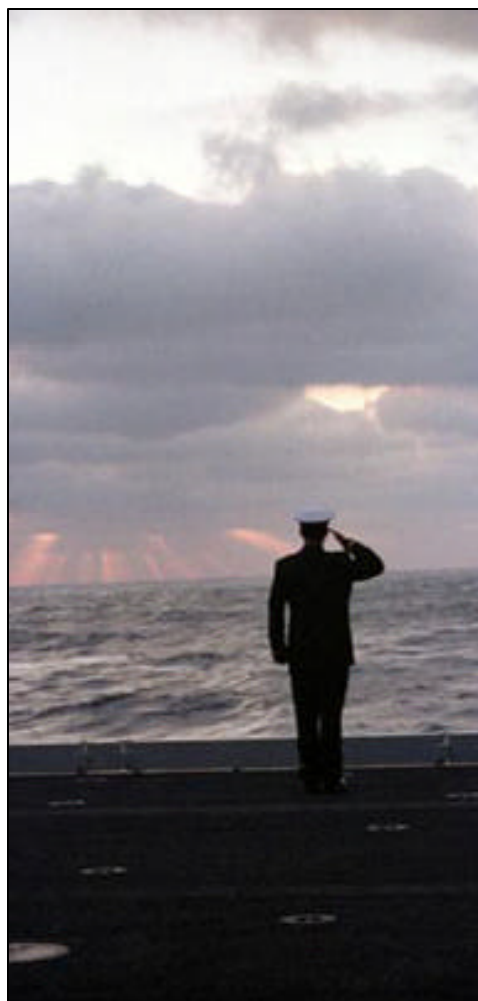
In 1862 during the Civil War, Union Army Capt. Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing, VA. The Confederate Army was on the other side of this narrow strip of land. During the night, Capt. Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay wounded on the field.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When he finally reached his own lines he discovered that it was actually a confederate soldier - but the soldier had died.

Suddenly the Captain went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the Soldier- his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out and, without telling his father, enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The heartbroken father asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. That request was turned down because the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, however, they said they would give him one musician. He chose a bugler, whom he asked to play a series of notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. That music was the haunting bugle melody we now know as TAPS.

U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Carolla V. Bennett. [000215-N-5863B-001] Feb. 10, 2000.



Navy/Marine Corps News on MERCY

Story by LCDR Gary Penton

Photo by HM2 Reynaldo Datu

A news crew from Navy & Marine Corps News was roaming the ship for the duration of MERCEX 01-1.

Navy/Marine Corps News is a half-hour television news program which provides news and information of interest to the United States Navy and Marine Corps team, including civilian employees and family members, at home and around the world, ashore and afloat.

After the program airs, we will receive a videotape of the program which we intend to have digitized and added to the Mercy website.

Check out www.mercy.navy.mil and "Mercy News."



Navy & Marine Corps News interviews ABH2 Federico Pardo

Seabag Check!

Here's a list of things you'll need to bring for KERNEL BLITZ.

Required:

Seabag with lock
4 sets of wash khakis/dungarees/coveralls (long-sleeve recommended)
Steel-toed boots
6 sets of underwear (skivvies, t-shirts, socks)
2 towels/washcloths
Shower shoes
Jacket
2 Netted laundry bags (one large, one small)
Safety pins
Ball cap
Personal toiletries (soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)
Extra set of glasses/contact lenses
If on prescription medicine, sufficient quantity to last the exercise

Recommended:

Battery operated Walkman
Athletic gear/shoes
Camera
Flashlight
Deck of cards, small games, book

Prohibited:

Camouflage uniforms (except security personnel)
Corfram or other flammable shoes
CNT uniforms
Alcoholic beverages
Weapons
Footlockers

Not recommended:

Hair dryer, curling iron, small appliance, (if brought, must be checked out by Operations Department)
Laptops must be cleared by AIMD before being brought on board.



USNS MERCY TRAINING SCHEDULE

FLEET EX

26 March – 06 April 01
KERNEL BLITZ 01
Full Hotel Services
Full 250-Bed Complement
At Sea (31 Mar-06 Apr 01)

MERCEx 01-3

16-20 Jul 01
Critical Core (16-20 Jul)
Flight Deck Crew (18-20 Jul)
CBR Team (18-20 Jul)
Pierside (No Fast-Cruise)

MERCEx 01-4

24-28 Sep 01

USNS MERCY POINTS OF CONTACT

USNS MERCY EXECUTIVE STEERING COUNCIL (in port numbers)

CAPT O'Farrell, Commanding Officer	532-7180
CAPT Sorensen, Executive Officer/OIC	556-3276
HMCM Basa, Command Master Chief	532-6405
CDR McKinsey, Director for Nursing Services	532-3311
CAPT Nash, Director for Clinical Services	532-8563
CAPT Sel. Kompanik, Supply Officer	556-6165
LCDR Jones, AOIC/Dir for Admin	556-3293
LCDR Laurent, Training Officer	532-7927
LT May, Helo Control Officer	532-7677
LCDR Penton, PAO	532-5439

MMPO

LT Murdock, Department Head	532-9776
PNC Meru, LCPO	532-9779

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

NMCSD Quarterdeck	532-6400
USNS MERCY Admin	556-3291
USNS MERCY Quarterdeck	556-3278

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